MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know whether the Government will take into consideration the assurance given by the members that they are prepared to take up the work on the present basis?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I have absolutely no objection. As soon as the estimates are ready, they will be given to them. The last estimate was prepared about two years ago for Rs. 22,000. It will possibly cost about Rs. 33,000 at present. The road is only 1½ miles long.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Will the Government be pleased to take up this road for maintenance at least next year.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is not in the budget I will have the estimates prepared.

Supply of drinking water to the Sabarimala pilgrims.

474. *MR. G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that many pilgrims who assembled at Sabarimala during Makaravilakku were undergoing untold miseries for want of good drinking water;

(*b*) whether they are aware that most of the pilgrims use filthy water for cooking and drinking purposes for want of good drinking water;

(*c*) whether, as a result of using filthy water, many pilgrims, after return to their homes have contracted typhoid fever and have faced premature deaths;

(*d*) whether any investigation has ever been made into the possibility of supplying good drinking water and the result of such investigation; and

(*e*) the number of pilgrims who assembled at Sabarimala during the last Makaravilakku (1120) and the nadavaravu in that year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes; but found impracticable.

(*e*) Above 5 lakhs; Rs. 78,572 and odd respectively.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: With regard to (*a*) and (*b*) may I assure the honourable member that great difficulties are experienced by the pilgrims and in view to that fact that proper investigations may be conducted for making good water available?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I will look into it.

Public Park in Alwaye.

475 *MR. M. K. MOHAMED (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is proposed to open a public park in Alwaye;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether any particular area has been fixed upon for the purpose;

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[Mr. M. K. Mohamed.]

(*c*) whether any representations have been received from the public of Alwaye regarding this matter; and

(*d*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government regarding it?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) There is a proposal in the report of the Committee appointed to consider the improvements to the town.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under enquiry.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the honourable member whether the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the improvement of the town is accepted by Government?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Not yet sir. It is awaiting my inspection.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know the personnel of the committee?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I do not know that. I will look into it when I go there.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know what the representation is?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKITAKRISHNAN: I have not read it. There is no point in reading it now. I will read it when I go there.

Child Marriage Restraint Act.

476 ***MR. D. THOMAS** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavancode*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of applications received in 1120 asking for exemption from the operation of the Child Marriage Restraint Act;

(*b*) the number of instances where exemption was granted; and

(*c*) the reasons for granting such exemptions?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 33.

(*b*) 11.

(*c*) Owing to the special circumstances of each case.

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): With regard to part (*c*) may I know the special circumstances that necessitated the exemptions?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: In certain cases the bride will be almost 14 years, and then it will be only.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I will give you instances of cases where exemptions have been granted. Most of these are from Catholics. One was a case where the girl was 13 years and 10 months, and although he was a Christian gentleman, he said that a proper muhurtam could not be fixed at a later date that year, and so wanted exemption. Another gentleman called—No, I will not mention the name—also a Catholic wanted to marry his younger brother 16 years of age

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